WATER AND VEHICLES DON’T ALWAYS MIX

y people underestimate how fast a “Flash Flood” can actua
r. Sometimes, a flash flood can happen in areas where it is
raining. Water can flow into other “dry” areas or “back-up
to congested drain systems.

It’s not a good idea to drive on flooded roadways or in areas where Flash Flood Warnings are issued. A Watch means conditions are favorable and a Warning means it is actually happening.

People may think that the size of a vehicle will protect them in high water. Water weighs 62.4 pounds per cubic foot. Weight and speed of water gives it more momentum. For each foot that water rises, it pushes on a car with 500 pounds of force.

Buoyancy is more important. A car weighs 1,500 pounds less for each foot the water rises.

Water only two feet deep will carry away most cars.

Six inches of moving water can sweep a person away.

Many drivers have a false sense of security due to the type of vehicle or it's operational features. They fail to realize many other unseen dangers. Water may short out electrical engine components, render brake systems useless, or waves could easily swamp their vehicle and send it floating away.

What if man hole covers and sewer grates are swept away?

What about submerged objects?

What if downed power lines or other energized systems are

What if the road itself was washed away? Rushing or standing flood water is usually murky and cannot be seen through. In darkness, it is almost impossible to see through water.

What if your vehicle should stall in the water? What if others are in your vehicle? How would you get out? Could you? If trapped in a vehicle surrounded by water, it is recommended that all occupants first free themselves of seatbelts and exit through windows. Opening a door may cause the vehicle to roll over or sink faster and onrushing water could block escape.

Flowing water is one of nature's most powerful forces. It can literally move tons of soil within seconds and move buildings off of their foundations

A person swept away by fast moving water has slim chances of survival. The average speed of flood water is 6 to 12 miles per hour.

Before traveling during periods of heavy rains and stormy weather, check on your route of travel for road and weather conditions in the area.

Such information can easily be obtained from the internet or local media.

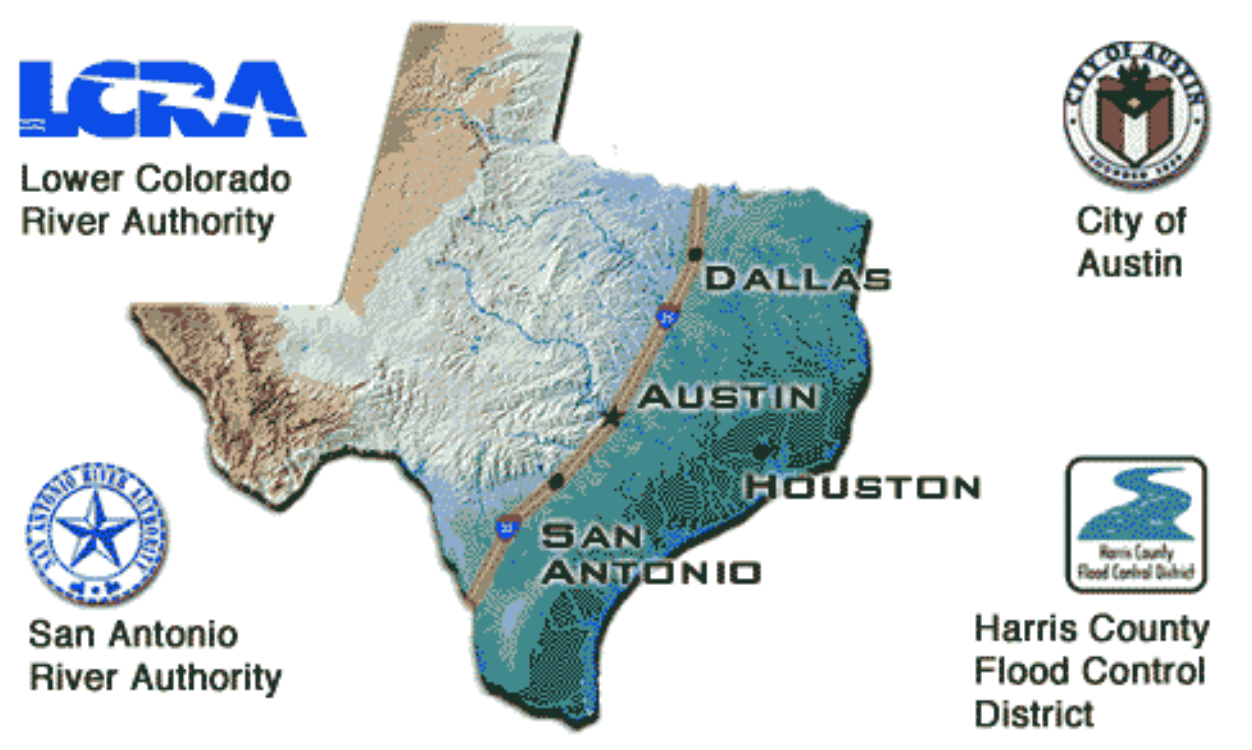
Even thin layers of water on the road can create dangerous conditions. Water mixed with roadway dirt and oil can create slick surfaces. Roadway markings may be hard to see. Wet brakes can increase stopping distances. Also, hydroplaning occurs when the tire's tread cannot move the water from underneath the tire fast enough. The tire begins to ride atop a ridge of water and loses contact with the ground and possible loss of vehicle control. Many variables lead to

OTHER WET WEATHER DRIVING TIPS

- Most important, SLOW DOWN
- Stay in middle lanes as water tends to pool in outside lanes
- Follow vehicles using the 3 second rule of spacing
- Try to follow in the tracks of the vehicle in front of you
- Avoid hard braking, take foot off accelerator to slow down
- Ensure tires and windshield wipers are serviceable
- Always drive with your headlights on in wet weather
- Never drive beyond the limits of visibility
- Never drive through moving water or puddles that touch car frame

Stay alert during periods of severe weather. Think ahead and plan with safety in mind. It may save your life and those that may have to come and try to rescue you!

Want to know more about flooding and flash flooding? Go to the website shown below. You will see many resources that will educate you to



http://www.floodsafety.com/index.htm

If you still don’t think that it can happen here in Central Texas, think again! Always pay close attention to what’s going on around you, both on and off duty.